

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, SURBITON, SURREY.

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NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT SURBITON, SURREY.

This church, which is situated on the banks of the river Thames, near the populous town of Kingston, is built of Bath stone; it consists of a western tower, a nave, north and south aisles, a chancel, with tribune and sacristies.

The entrance is in the tower, as shewn in the engraving. In the arch above the door, there appears the Greek form or monogram of the cross, as sculptured on sarcophaguses of the first ages of Christianity. The plan of the tower is square; it measures 16 feet at its base, and the whole height, including the cross, is 78 feet. A cast-iron screen runs across the

inner part, and forms the entrance porch. On each side of the inner doorway are stupas, the bowl and shaft made of Italian marble. In one corner there is a small staircase, reaching to the organ loft, which is open to the nave, as high as the clock chamber. From this there is an easy ascent to the belfry, where, by an arrangement of the machinery, the clock strikes the angular bell at the proper hours.

The nave consists of three compartments; the length is 45 feet, the height 43 feet, and the width, including the aisles, 44 feet. The pedestals, pillars, and entablatures supporting the arches, are of Portland stone; over each arch there are windows of three lights, forming a clerestory. The roofs, framed with beams and rafters, are open to the ceiling; each prin-

ciple rests upon a moulded and enriched corbel; all the roofs are covered with tiles made from a model obtained from Florence. The eastern gable rises considerably above the chancel, and supports a belfry for the sanctus bell. The floor is laid with red and white hexagonal tiles; the benches are low and open; the walls are decorated with coloured monograms, as found in the catacombs of the first Christians. At the western end of the north aisle the font is fixed; the bowl and shaft are of Italian marble; the cover is of oak, framed in four compartments.

The chancel, raised one step above the ordinary level of the church, and separated by a wrought-iron railing, is 22 feet in length, and the same width as the nave; the height is 37